



**TOWN OF TEWKSBURY  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
1009 Main Street  
Tewksbury, MA 01876**

Jonathan Parker, Chairman  
Carolina Linder, Vice-Chair  
Steve Deackoff, Clerk  
Dennis Sheehan  
Anthony Ippolito

**Meeting Minutes  
February 17, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Jonathan Parker, Chairman, at 7:02 p.m. at the Town Hall, 1009 Main Street. In attendance were Steve Deackoff, Anthony Ippolito, and Carolina Linder. Also in attendance was Kyle Boyd, Conservation Agent, and Melissa Johnson, Recording Secretary.

Dennis Sheehan was not in attendance.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2016**

**MOTION:** Ms. Linder made the motion to approve the February 3, 2016 meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Ippolito and the motion carried 4-0.

**A) Notice of Intent, New Horizons Realty Group, 1201 Main Street, Map 60, Lot 39, DEP #305-997**

Mr. Parker noted that this matter will be continued to March 2, 2016.

**MOTION:** Mr. Ippolito made the motion to continue the public hearing for New Horizons Realty Group, 1201 Main Street, Map 60, Lot 39, DEP #305-997; seconded by Ms. Linder and the motion carried 4-0.

**MOTION:** Mr. Ippolito made the motion to continue New Horizons Realty Group, 1201 Main Street, Map 60, Lot 39, DEP #305-997 to March 2, 2016 at 7:02 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Linder and the motion carried 4-0.

**B) Notice of Intent, Arnold Martel, 15 Starbird Avenue, DEP #305-998**

Mr. Parker noted that this matter will be continued to March 2, 2016.

**MOTION:** Ms. Linder made the motion to continue the public hearing for Notice of Intent, Arnold Martel, 15 Starbird Avenue, DEP #305-998; seconded by Mr. Ippolito and the motion carried 4-0.

**MOTION:** Mr. Deackoff made the motion to continue Notice of Intent, Arnold Martel, 15 Starbird Avenue, DEP #305-998 to February 17, 2016 at 7:04 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Sheehan and the motion carried 4-0.

**C) Request for Certificate of Compliance, Marc P. Ginsburg, Settlers Way, DEP #305-964**

Mr. Parker noted that this matter will be continued to March 2, 2016.

**MOTION: Ms. Linder made the motion to continue, Certificate of Compliance Marc P. Ginsburg, Settlers Way, DEP #305-964 to March 2, 2016 at 7:06 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Ippolito and the motion carried 4-0.**

**D) Notice of Intent, Town of Tewksbury, Pinnacle Street, Map 91, Lot 13, DEP #305-1002**

Present was Dave Bennett and Joe Carroll, Tewksbury DPW.

Mr. Bennett explained that this project is for a headwall replacement on Pinnacle Street and noted that Pinnacle Brook flows under Pinnacle Street from East to West. Mr. Bennett reviewed the resource areas which include; land under water, bank, and bordering vegetated wetlands. The project consists of removing the existing headwall and replacing it with a concrete structure. Mr. Bennett explained that in addition, on the west side of Pinnacle Street, there is a “block” portion that has shifted and requires resetting.

Mr. Bennett reviewed the construction sequence and explained that they are proposing inflatable copper dams; which will lay just on top of the ground surface and bypass pump the upstream water beneath the road through the existing culvert and to the other side. This will allow them to maintain some sort of traffic while keeping the area dry. The dewatering portion will be to lower the water table so that during excavation the area is relatively dry. The fluids will be pumped to a sediment filtration system. Mr. Bennett noted that they are proposing sediment dewatering treatment station and perimeter controls consisting of straw waddles and best management practices. It is expected that the project will last approximately one week with one of the challenges being the existing overhead wires.

Mr. Boyd suggested monitoring the weather around this project as well as a condition that the project is done during low flow. Mr. Boyd asked how the concrete structure will be placed and Mr. Bennett explained that there are a few options that they will be leaving open for the contractor with the only possible difference being the duration of the project.

Ms. Linder asked if there are plans to change the diameter of the culvert and Mr. Bennett explained that existing pipe will stay in place.

Mr. Bennett explained that they are also requesting a waiver to the 25 foot no disturb and noted that the project is not really possible without disturbance and they feel that they have proposed the best BMP's possible and they have aimed to minimize disturbances and all will be temporary disturbances.

Mr. Parker opened the hearing to the public.

Mr. Embriano of 61 Dunvegan Road came forward and noted that he is unsure what all of this is about. Mr. Boyd requested the applicant provide another explanation. Mr. Embriano noted that he is concerned with increasing water onto his property as he has already flooded. Mr. Bennett explained that they are not expecting any increase in water flow and that the project will be done during low flow conditions.

Erik Parker of 15 Dunvegan Road came forward and asked if there is an estimated start date and Mr. Bennett explained that one of the conditions of the US Army Corp of Engineers permit is that the work be done between July 1 and the end of September; otherwise, they do not have a more specific date at this time. Mr. Parker asked how it will effect the traffic and Mr. Bennett explained that the water will be pumped through an existing pipe and excavating would likely be done during normal work hours so they do not expect any over night closers of the road. Mr. Carroll suggested the residents plan ahead and allow for additional time when they see the heavy equipment in the area.

**MOTION: Ms. Linder made the motion to close the public hearing; seconded by Mr. and the motion carried 4-0.**

**MOTION: Mr. Deackoff made the motion to approve Notice of Intent, Town of Tewksbury, Pinnacle Street, Map 91, Lot 13, DEP #305-1002, the project shall be done during low flow conditions; seconded by Mr. Sheehan and the motion carried 4-0.**

**E) Notice of Intent, New England Power Company, Existing transmission line Row, Map 49, Lot 24, DEP #**

Present was Brian Hudock, Project Manager for National Grid for the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project, Joshua Holden of New England Power Company, Mark Bergeron of VHB, and Jessica Farrell.

Mr. Hudock explained that this is a reliability project to strengthen the transmission system and consists of constructing a new line from Substation 22A in Tewksbury to a substation in New Hampshire. Mr. Hudock noted that they were also before the Board of Selectmen last month.

Mr. Bergeron explained that the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project is a new overhead 345 kilovolt line and also involves relocation of some existing transmission structures and lines within one of the existing corridors of the project. In general the project is 24.5 miles and runs from the Tewksbury 22A substation and ends in New Hampshire at Eversource. Eighteen miles of the project is in New Hampshire, 6.5 miles in Massachusetts with 1.9 miles being located in Tewksbury. Mr. Bergeron explained that the Greater Boston and Southern NH regions are the most concentrated and fastest growing electric demand areas in New England. The ISO New England has been doing studies since 2008 on how to identify potential overloads on existing transmission lines. As a result, this project is a set project proposed to meet that need and will help solve reliability needs throughout the region.

Ms. Farrell explained that starting at the Tewksbury 22A Substation there is presently one 345kv corridor that heads towards another corridor with a number of other circuits in it. There is one circuit (397) that they are proposing to build a new 3124 line 75 foot offset with approximately three structures in this segment, to bring it out of the substation and to bring it over to the right of way.

Ms. Farrell explained that when you get to the main right of way, which comes out of the Tewksbury 22A substation and runs north, there are presently five existing transmission circuits within the right of way corridor along with the distribution circuit. The plan is to relocate the distribution circuit further west to take an existing 230kv line and rebuild it onto a new structure located further west; which will allow for sufficient space for the new 345kv line.

Ms. Farrell noted that just north of North Street, the existing distribution lines goes from the west side of the right of way corridor over to the east side. In order to install the new 345kv line, there will be four structures replaced and moved to the east and the existing 115kv line will be shifted to the east. Ms. Farrell explained that after that, the existing L164 line will be cut over to the Y151 structures and noted that they are looking to reuse as many structures as possible as well as the existing conductor associated with that circuit. Ms. Farrell explained that once the L164 line is relocated to the east, the existing N214; which is a 230kv line carried on lattice towers, will get relocated just offset of the L164 present center line. This will allow them space to build out a new set of 345kv structures and lines. Ms. Farrell explained that in order to avoid a line crossing, they are proposing to energize the new set of structures and wire as the existing 397 line.

Mr. Bergeron noted that the project is expected to start this fall in October/November and is expected to continue until December, 2017.

Mr. Bergeron reviewed the construction sequencing: removal of vegetation and right of way mowing in advance of construction, installation of soil erosion and sediment controls, installation of timber mats, installation of foundation and structures, installation of conductor and shield wire, removal of existing transmission line components, and restoration of the right of way. Mr. Bergeron noted that not all of timber mats will be installed at once as the crews typically work in sections and move the mats with each section.

Mr. Bergeron reviewed the wetland impacts. There is a total of 953 square feet of permanent fill to bordering vegetated wetlands for 35 structures that they were unable to locate outside of the wetlands. There are six structures in bordering land subjected to flooding for approximately 164 square feet of permanent impact. The permanent impact is mostly the foundation of the structures.

Mr. Bergeron noted that the temporary disturbance will be with the timber mats. In total there are a total of 422,280 and they will not all be placed at the same time. There is an additional four 4,197 impacts from tree clearing and bordering land subject to flooding 64,710 square feet.

Mr. Bergeron explained that as a requirement of permits, they had to show that this is the least amount of environmental damage and reviewed some of the alternatives that were considered including overhead electric transmission line, underground electric transmission lines, and non transmission alternatives. Mr. Bergeron noted that they feel that this is the best project to meet the needs with the least impact.

Mr. Bergeron discussed National Grid's Best Management Practices Manual, EG303, and noted that the manual details erosion and sedimentation control barriers, dewatering basins, and filter fabrics for dewatering, bags, construction signage for wetlands, and construction entrance pads.

Mr. Bergeron noted that they are proposing a wetland creation area of 2,072 square feet just north of Route 133 and explained that this area has some previously disturbed areas and is out of the right of way.

Mr. Bergeron noted that, in addition, they did a detailed wildlife habitat evaluation on the project and in most areas the wildlife is only temporary affected. The key losses according to the evaluation were tree loss; which they will be mitigating by leaving snags in place. Mr. Bergeron explained that they will walk the project with the foresters to mark trees that will not be cut down during construction. Mr. Bergeron showed photographs of trees that were snagged at another location and noted that once the work is done a sign is placed on the snag to instruct it not to be cut.

Mr. Boyd noted that he noticed some things that they will be monitoring are the snags, invasives, and wetland replication and suggested a bond be put in place for monitoring the project as it is a large project. Mr. Boyd also suggested Bill Manuell monitor the project as it moves along. Mr. Bergeron explained that they typically do this when they do a wetland replication. Mr. Boyd noted that Mr. Manuell had some comments regarding depth and explained that he would feel more comfortable if Mr. Manuell reviewed the project again and also monitor as it progresses.

Mr. Ippolito commended the applicant on their presentation and asked if the project is for installation of three new lines and Ms. Farrell explained that they are relocating existing lines to create space for one new line. Mr. Ippolito inquired about access roads. Mr. Bergeron explained that they will be utilizing existing access roads and will install timber mats to cross areas that have previously been crossed. Mr. Ippolito noted that some heavy equipment will be brought in and asked if there is enough width to get these trucks in and Mr. Holden confirmed this and explained that there are different ways into the right of way and that they will not be traversing the entire length of the right of way. Mr. Boyd suggested a site walk be provided to Mr. Ippolito and Mr. Holden confirmed this could be done.

Ms. Linder disclosed that she used to work with Mr. Bergeron at VHB and asked if the spring and summer will be avoided and Mr. Hudock explained that the project is expected to begin in the fall and continue to December, 2017. Ms. Linder discussed the deep invaded wetland area north of substation 22A. Mr. Bergeron explained that this is where a majority of the impacts for the project are and noted that everything in this area will be matted and there is sufficient space for equipment, dewatering basins, etc. Ms. Linder

asked about the replication area and asked if there is a better location. Mr. Bergeron explained that they looked at several locations, but were limited as it had to be a parcel that the company owned in fee and had the right to do the work on. Mr. Bergeron feels this is one of the better locations that they saw. Ms. Linder noted that in the future town owned land could also be considered as possible locations for a replication area. Ms. Linder noted that it was also noted that there may not be sufficient erosion controls in place and Mr. Holden explained that they adjust the erosion controls as needed once they get on site.

Mr. Parker asked what input was received from the Board of Selectmen and Mr. Hudock explained that they met with the Board of Selectmen a couple of times and there were no major concerns. Comments were received regarding visual impacts, project timing, etc. Otherwise, the Board of Selectmen appeared to be satisfied with the plans. Mr. Hudock noted that they will likely be before the Board of Selectmen again in the summer.

Ms. Linder asked how a certain amount of snags per acre was determined and if additional snags could be done and Mr. Bergeron explained that their ratio is focused on impact to wetlands, but they are willing to do additional snags in buffer zones or upland areas as well.

Ms. Linder asked if it is possible to add a line and go vertical rather than horizontal. Ms. Farrell explained that they designed the project around having to use a structure with more than one circuit on it as you can lose two circuits with one incident.

Mr. Boyd noted that the residents have been notified and there is no one in attendance. Mr. Bergeron explained that he did receive a call from the 495 Business Network Center requesting the letter as well as from a few residents asking what the project was about.

Mr. Parker opened the hearing to the public and no one came forward to comment.

**MOTION:**     **Mr. Ippolito made the motion to close the public hearing for Notice of Intent, New England Power Company, Existing transmission line Row, Map 49, Lot 24, DEP #; seconded by Ms. Linder and the motion carried 4-0.**

**MOTION:**     **Mr. Ippolito made the motion to approve Notice of Intent, New England Power Company, Existing transmission line Row, Map 49, Lot 24, DEP #; seconded by Ms. Linder and the motion carried 4-0.**

#### **New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

#### **Adjourn.**

**MOTION:**    **Mr. Deackoff made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Sheehan and the motion carried 4-0.**

*Approved: 3/2/16*

List of documents for 2/17/16 Agenda  
Documents can be located at the Community Development Office

Approval of Minutes February 3, 2016

- A.    7:02**        Notice of Intent, New Horizons Realty Group, 1201 Main Street, Map 60 Lot 39, DEP #305-997
- *Site Plans signed and stamped by Eric Girade dated October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015*
  - *Review Letter from Bill Manuell dated February 29, 2016*
  - *Review letter from Bill Manuell dated November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016*
  - *Review letter from Kyle Boyd*
  - *NOI submittal package dated October 9, 2015*
- B.    7:04**        Notice of Intent, Arnold Martel, 15 Starbird Avenue, DEP # 305-998
- *Review letter from Kevin Hardiman dated March 7, 2016*
  - *Grading, Drainage, and Erosion Control Plan signed and stamped by Jim Hanley dated November 6, 2015*
  - *Open Space Residential Design Special Permit printout*
  - *Notice of Intent Submittal package dated November 2015*
  - *Review letter from Bill Manuell dated November 21, 2015*
  - *Review letter from Kyle Boyd*
  - *Letter from Norse Environmental dated December 9, 2015*
  - *Definitive Subdivision Plans signed and stamped by Jim Hanley dated November 6, 2015*
- C.    7:06**        Request for Certificate of Compliance, Marc P. Ginsburg , Settlers Way , DEP #305-964
- *Request for Certificate of Compliance Form 8a*
  - *Settlers Way Aerial Photos*
- D.    7:08**        Non Substantial Change Request, Paul Grant, 836 North Street, DEP # 305-988 (Request Withdrawn)
- *Drain sketch dated December 12, 2015 submitted by Phil Cordeiro*
- E.    7:10**        Notice of Intent, Town of Tewksbury, Pinnacle Street, Map 91 Lot 13, DEP #
- *Notice of Intent packet submitted by Town of Tewksbury dated February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016*
  - *Plans titled "Culvert Headwall Replacement" signed and stamped by David M. Pettitt dated February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016*
- F.    7:12**        Notice of Intent, New England Power Company, Existing transmission line ROW, Map 49 Lot 34, DEP # 305-1003
- *Review letter from Bill Manuell dated February 15, 2016*
  - *Merrimack Valley Reliability Project Notice of Intent Packet dated January 2016*